

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 IO-10 OMB-01 ACDA-05 SAM-01 SAB-01 L-03

DODE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /065 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:PKBULLEN:BH

APPROVED BY NEA:ARDA

NEA/ARN:MDRAPER (DRAFT)

P:MDEFORD

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O R 202210Z DEC 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 300219

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: LE, PFOR, US (EDDE, RAYMOND)

SUBJECT: EDDE MEETING WITH SISCO, DECEMBER 19

1. AFTER LINKING LEBANESE PROBLEM TO PALESTINIAN FEDAYEEN PRESENCE, EDDE SAID THAT ISRAEL SEEKS TO DESTROY LEBANON TO SHOW THAT MOSLEM-CHRISTIAN COEXISTENCE CANNOT LAST AND THEREFORE DOES NOT PROVIDE PATTERN FOR SETTLING ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN PROBLEM. HE ADDED THAT OTHER COUNTRIES, SUCH AS SYRIA, SEEK TO DESTROY LEBANON BECAUSE ITS FREEDOM AND LIBERAL ECONOMY SHOW THEM UP. HE SAID ISRAEL SEEKS PARTITION LEBANON AS FIRST STEP TOWARD PARTITIONING SYRIA TO CREATE SERIES OF WEAK CONFESSIONAL STATES (MARONITE, DRUZE, ALAWITE, SUNNI) AS BUFFER. EDDE OPPOSES PARTITION. HE DEDUCED THAT USA ACCEPTS AND, BY INACTION, SUPPORTS PARTITION OF LEBANON, AND CLAIMED THAT THIS WAS PART OF  
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U.S.-USSR AGREEMENT TO DIVIDE MIDDLE EAST INTO SPHERES OF

INFLUENCE, WITH LEBANON AND SYRIA CONSTITUTING SOVIET SPHERE.

2. EDDE SAID HIS SOLUTION WOULD BE (A) PRESSURE ON SYRIA TO WITHDRAW PLA AND SAIQA TROOPS FROM BAKAA, TRIPOLI, AND BEIRUT; (B) STATION UN TROOPS BOTH ALONG LEBANON-ISRAEL BORDER AND INSIDE LEBANON, TO REASSURE PALESTINIANS AND SYRIANS THAT PALESTINIANS AND LEBANESE MOSLEMS WOULD

BE SECURE AGAINST CHRISTIAN MILITIA ATTACK; (C) CONVINCE PALESTINIANS TO BE RESETTLED EITHER IN NORTH LEBANON OR IN SOUTH LEBANON, TO GET THEM AWAY FROM AROUND LEBANESE CITIES.

3. SISCO REPLIED EMPHATICALLY THAT IT IS NOT RPT NOT ISRAELI POLICY TO DESTROY LEBANON, EVEN IF SOME SHORT-SIGHTED ISRAELI ACTIONS MAY HAVE TENDED TOWARD THAT EFFECT. ISRAEL HAS ABSOLUTELY NO INTEREST IN SEEING LEBANON AS WE HAVE KNOWN IT DESTROYED, OR IN SEEING SYRIA TAKE OVER LEBANON. BUT THERE IS PLENTY OF BLAME TO GO AROUND. SISCO SAID LEBANESE HAVE BEEN SHORTSIGHTED IN PAST TEN YEARS; HE HAD TOLD THEM THAT LEBANON NEEDED TO DEVELOP ITS OWN SECURITY FORCE, AND THAT WAS DISREGARDED. BOTH U.S. AND LEBANESE HAVE WANTED TO SEE POLITICAL BALANCE MAINTAINED IN LEBANON. BUT LEBANESE INTERNAL SITUATION WAS ALLOWED TO DEVELOP TO A POINT WHERE IT MAY BE TOO LATE FOR IT TO MAKE THE POLITICAL ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED. IF ADJUSTMENT IS NOT ACHIEVED, THAT WOULD BE A TRAGEDY FOR LEBANESE AND FOR U.S. SISCO SAID EDDE IS REALISTIC IN IMPLYING THAT U.S. CANNOT ACT AS IN 1958. IDEA OF UN FORCE ON LEBANESE-ISRAELI BORDER IS ONE WE HAVE SUGGESTED TO LEBANON FOR A DECADE, BUT EVEN IF IMPLEMENTED TODAY, IT WOULD NOT PROTECT LEBANON AGAINST ITS GREATEST DANGER, WHICH IS IN ARAB WORLD.

4. SISCO POSED TWO QUESTIONS TO EDDE: DOES HE FEEL IT IS TOO LATE FOR POLITICAL PROCESS; AND WHAT KIND OF POLITICAL ADJUSTMENT, IF ANY, WOULD MAINTAIN PROBLEM IN BALANCE AND BUY TIME TO RESOLVE LEBANESE SITUATION? (AT THIS POINT SISCO LEFT THE MEETING.) EDDE REPLIED THAT PROBLEM

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COULD BE SETTLED IF ONLY LEBANESE WERE INVOLVED, BUT SYRIAN INVOLVEMENT, PALESTINIAN PRESENCE, AND ISRAELI INTERFERENCE MAKE THIS NOT THE CASE. QADDAFI OF LIBYA IS ALSO INTERVENING WITH ARMS AND MONEY, AND IRAQI BAATH INVOLVED ALSO. IT IS NOT RPT NOT AN INTERNAL LEBANESE PROBLEM, AND IS BEYOND CONTROL OF LEBANESE.

5. DEFORD ASKED EDDE TO SPECIFY HOW U.S. MIGHT BE HELP-

FUL. EDDE URGED (A) AMERICAN INTERVENTION WITH ISRAEL TO MAKE IT STOP FOMENTING TROUBLE IN LEBANON; (B) PRESSURE ON SYRIA TO WITHDRAW ITS TROOPS (SAIQA AND PLA), AND TEMPORARY INTRODUCTION OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY FORCE TO REASSURE PALESTINIANS, SYRIANS, AND MOSLEMS; AND (C) CONVINCE PALESTINIANS TO AGREE TO BE CONCENTRATED IN ONE AREA, SUCH AS SOUTH LEBANON, PROVIDE ECONOMIC AID FOR SUCH AN AREA TO MAKE IT VIABLE, AND SEND A UN FORCE FOR LEBANESE-ISRAELI FRONTIER. EDDE SAID THAT, IF

BELLIGERENTS LEFT LEBANON, MOSLEMS AND CHRISTIANS WOULD "EMBRACE".

6. EDDE PLANS GO TO NEW YORK DECEMBER 21, THEN TO PARIS AND BACK TO LEBANON.

7. COMMENT: EDDE'S UNREALISTIC APPROACH TO ISSUES AND FACT HE UNABLE PROPOSE ANY INTERNAL LEBANESE STEPS, OR REALISTIC STEPS FOR U.S. TO TAKE, MADE CALL MOST UN-FRUITFUL.  
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